

Polio update

Pakistan & Afghanistan

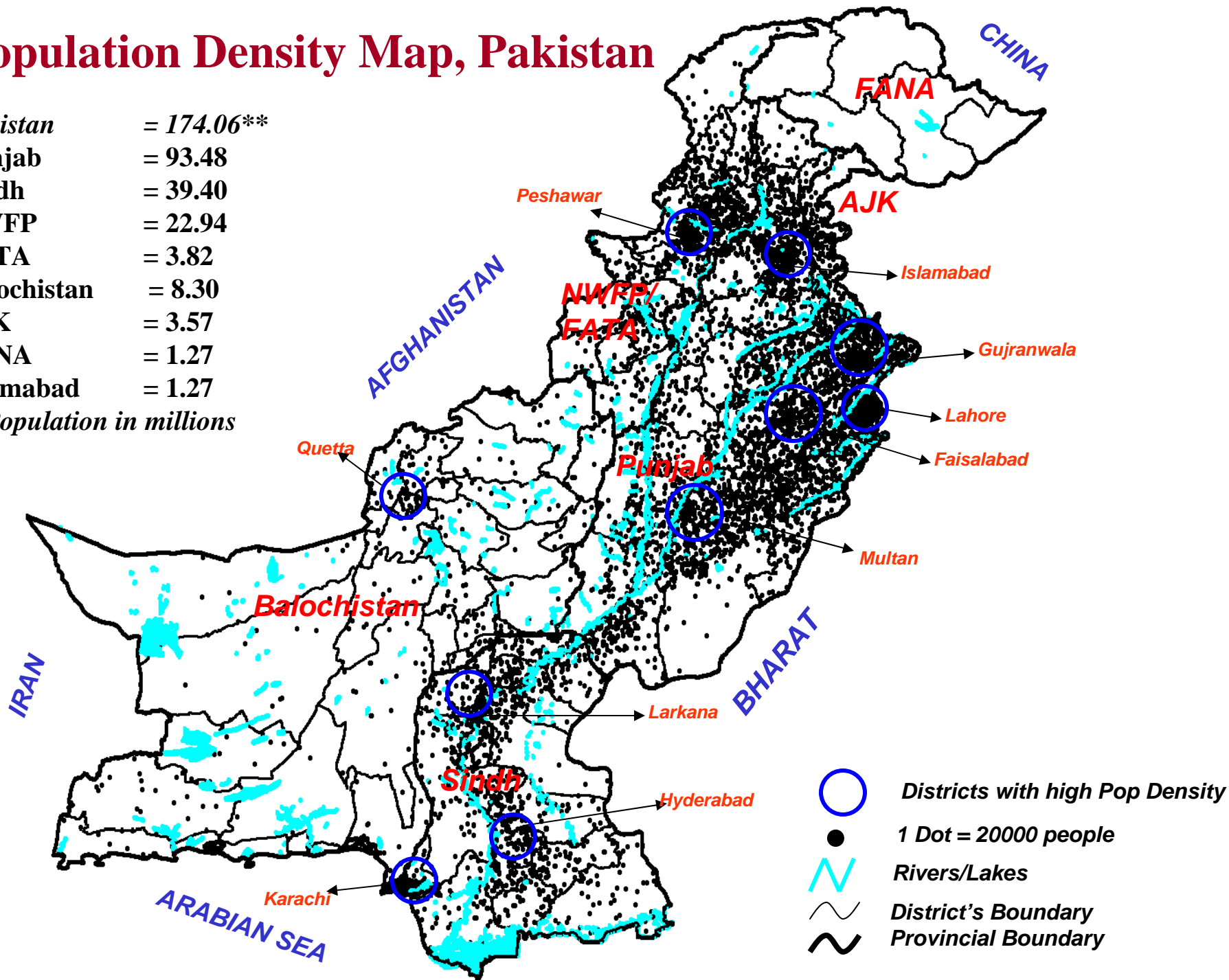
Professor Tariq Bhutta

Chairman National Certification Committee on Eradication of Poliomyelitis
Pakistan

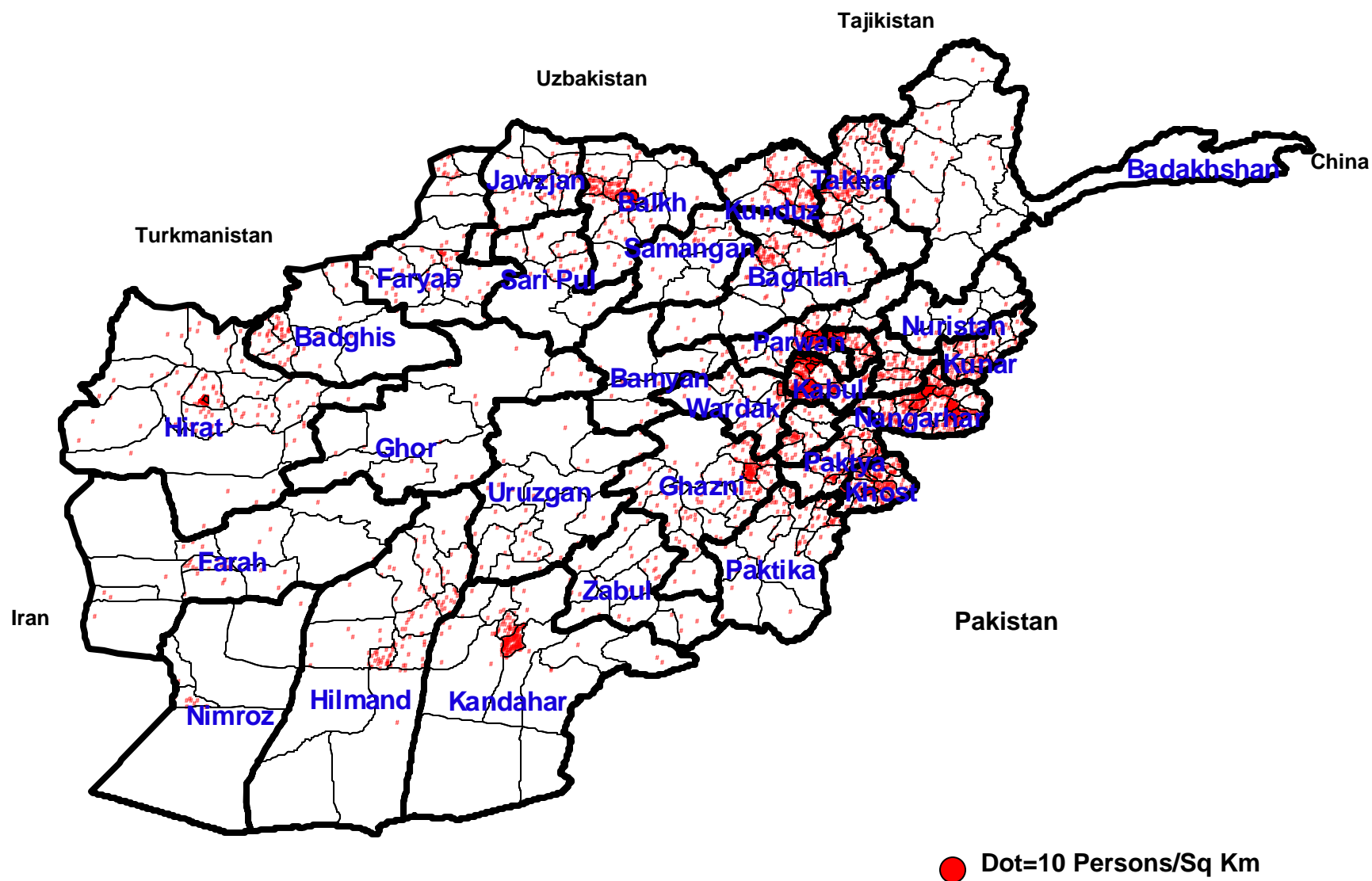
Population Density Map, Pakistan

<i>Pakistan</i>	= 174.06**
<i>Punjab</i>	= 93.48
<i>Sindh</i>	= 39.40
<i>NWFP</i>	= 22.94
<i>FATA</i>	= 3.82
<i>Balochistan</i>	= 8.30
<i>AJK</i>	= 3.57
<i>FANA</i>	= 1.27
<i>Islamabad</i>	= 1.27

****Population in millions**



Population Density Map Afghanistan 2007

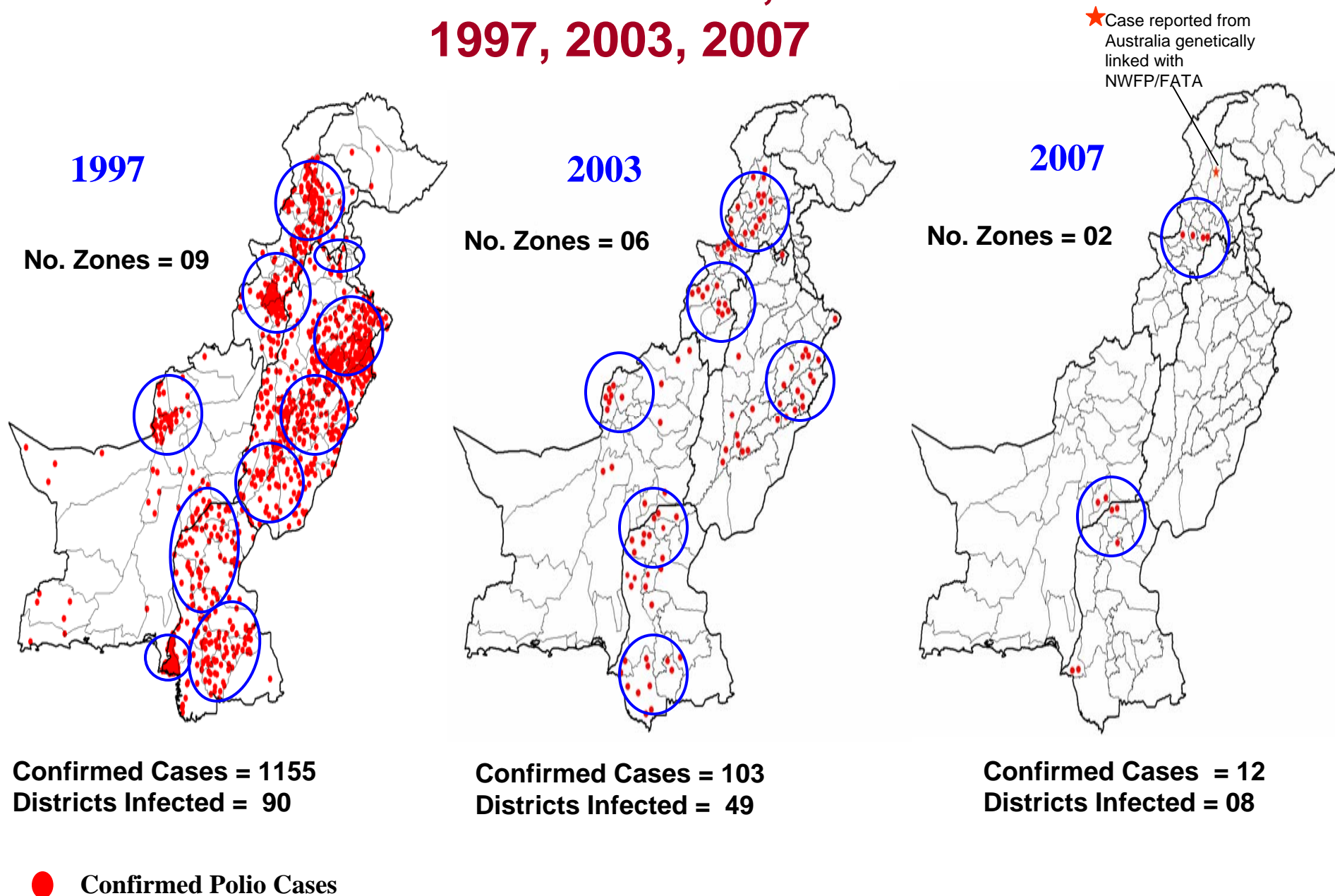


Background

- Polio eradication efforts started in 1994, six years after launch of Global PEI
- Pakistan & Afghanistan are making progress
 - Pakistan: Number of cases down from an estimated 20 - 30,000 per year to 40 in 2006 & 12 to date in 2007
 - Geographical & genetic restriction of polioviruses in both countries
- Sharing of poliovirus between Pakistan & Afghanistan
 - Mainly in populations moving between 2 countries and border areas
 - Strong coordination & collaboration led by the political leadership of both countries
- Surveillance indicators are reaching the international standards and system
 - System supported by WHO accredited laboratory capable of doing genomic sequencing

Polio virus circulation, Pakistan

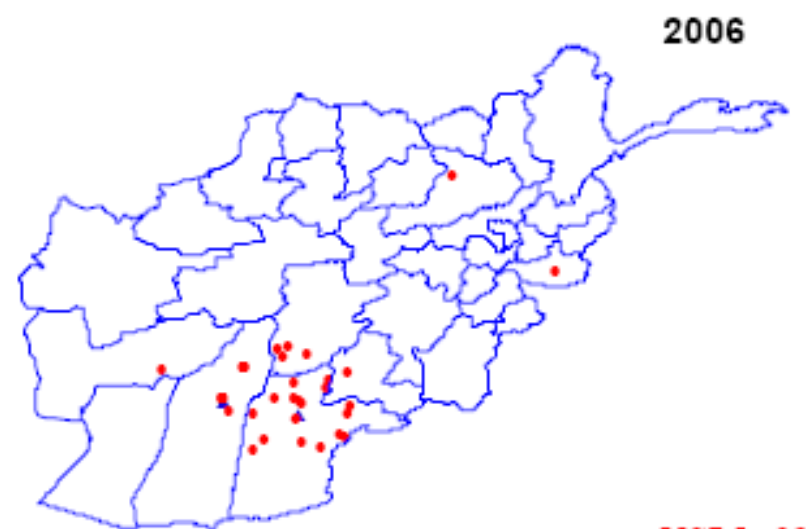
1997, 2003, 2007



P1 & P3 Poliovirus Isolates Afghanistan 1999, 04,06 & 07

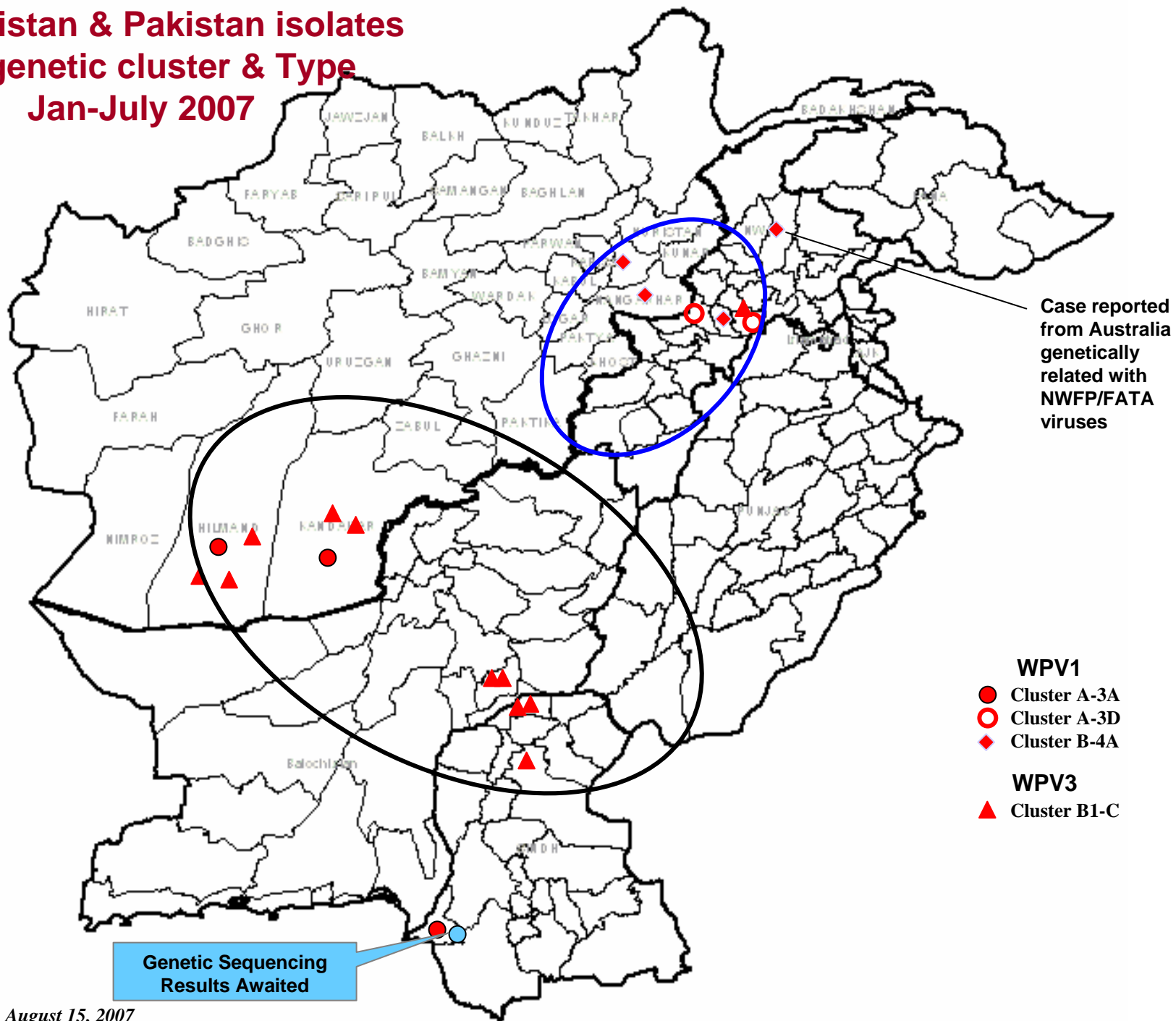


● NSL1
▲ NSL3



Data up to 18 Aug 2007

Afghanistan & Pakistan isolates by genetic cluster & Type Jan-July 2007



Last Update: August 15, 2007

Overcoming the Challenges

Challenges	Actions taken
<p>Access Issues</p> <p>Cultural- Utaq (males unable to vaccinate very young infants)</p> <p>Refusals <1% of target children</p> <p>Security 1.8 million PAK (NWFP/FTA) 1.2 million AFG (south)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging political & religious leaders to support the vaccination staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recruitment of local human resources preferably females – Safe passage to vaccination staff • Additional staff to support social mobilization at operational level • Availing other opportunities to reach children like days of peace and measles vaccination campaign • Advocacy for Days of Tranquility (Afghanistan)
<p>Inadequate Service Delivery (27% of < 5% missed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted training together with extensive supervision & monitoring

Overcoming the Challenges

Challenges	Interventions
Reaching mobile populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special micro plans & maps after studying population movement pattern• Special activities outside SIAs<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Special campaigns targeting these populations– Permanent vaccination posts at busy border crossings– Seasonal vaccination posts at identified ‘choke points’ – most of moving populations pass through these points• Synchronized vaccination campaigns• Focus on border areas
Funding gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing resource mobilization

The Way Forward

- Maintaining population immunity through nation wide campaigns & targeted campaigns in high risk areas/populations
- Strengthening of cross border coordination
- Sustaining communications activities between & during campaigns
- Improving access & SIA quality
- Improving routine immunization and optimizing experiences in PEI

Summary

- Pakistan & Afghanistan are making progress towards goal of stopping poliovirus transmission
- There is continued progress in restricting wild polioviruses
- Children in areas having access hampered by security, cultural conservatism & high population mobility are at highest risk
- Efforts being made to improve campaign quality and overcome the challenges
- Polio infrastructure & approaches should be used for strengthening routine EPI
- Need for continued advocacy for sustained support to eradicate polio in Pakistan & Afghanistan is crucial in this last phase